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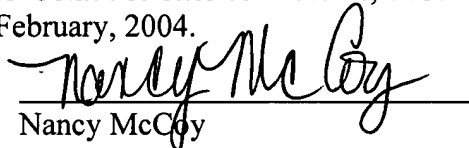
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mailvaganam T.S.P.M. Pillai et al.  
Serial No: 09/889,610  
Confirmation No: 6949  
Filed: January 8, 2002  
For: USE OF VEGETATIVE MATERIAL AS A FILLER IN  
COMPOSITE MATERIALS  
Examiner: Anthony, Joseph David  
Art Unit: 1714

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004.

  
Nancy McCoy

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Election/Restriction Requirement dated November 20, 2003, the Applicant elects Group I (claims 1-11 and 24-37), and further elects species "thermoset plastics" with traverse. The traversal was made on the grounds that it is believed that a single search and examination covering all claims would not place undue burden on the Examiner (See MPEP 803).

The Patent Office requests that the Applicant list all claims readable on the elected species. The following claims appear to form a group commensurate with the elected species for search and examination purposes only: claims 24-29.

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A first and favorable action is respectfully requested. If, for any reason, the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conversation would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at (617) 646-8291.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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Date: February 20, 2004  
**x2/20/04x**